

# Gosforth East Middle School

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In the Pursuit of Excellence

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to make you aware of an important online-safety concern that has recently come to our attention.

During the past week, the school has been informed that some pupils have been creating and sharing images of other children and staff, including altered or AI-generated images and using them in messages. A small number of these images have been inappropriate and have all been created without the consent of the individuals involved.

We take matters of online safety and pupil welfare extremely seriously. The police have visited the school to advise us and have confirmed that creating, altering, or sharing indecent images of any person – including using AI tools – is a criminal offence, regardless of intent. They also stressed that sharing any image of another person without permission can have serious emotional and legal consequences.

In today's assembly, we spoke to all KS3 pupils to ensure they fully understand the seriousness of this issue. We have asked them to check their devices and delete any images of children or adults linked to the school. We have made it very clear that the adults at Gosforth East Middle School do not give consent for their images to be used or shared and there should be no opportunities for children to take or share images whilst at school.

We would be very grateful for your support in reinforcing this message at home. Please could you:

- Talk with your child about what we have discussed today and make sure they understand why this behaviour is harmful and unlawful.
- Check their devices, including phones and tablets, to ensure that all content is appropriate and that no images of other pupils or staff are being stored or shared.
- Continue to monitor their online activity, social-media use, and any apps that allow image creation or sharing.
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We also spoke to the children about the use of prohibited items, including the use of vapes and especially about bringing them into school. Again, we acknowledge that this is a very small number of pupils but an issue we need to make you aware of and assume that we have your full support in keeping your children safe in school. Our behaviour policy is available on our website, there you can find a list of prohibited items and other important information.

Our aim is to keep every member of our school community safe and supported. If you have any concerns or need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

*Senior Leadership Team*

